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## **Lava Lake Land & Livestock, L.L.C.**

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P.O. Box 2249  
Hailey, Idaho 83333  
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San Francisco, California 94118  
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RECEIVED  
MAR 15 2004  
Department of Water Resources  
Southern Region

March 15, 2004

Karl Dreher  
Idaho Department of Water Resources  
c/o Cindy Yenter, Watermaster  
District 130  
1341 Fillmore Street, Suite 200  
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301-3380

**BY FAX ON MARCH 15, 2004**

Dear Director Dreher and Watermaster Yenter:

I am writing to ask you to exclude Lava Lake Land & Livestock, L.L.C.'s water rights at Lava Lake Ranch from your order dated February 25, 2004 that will halt groundwater diversions in Water District 130.

Lava Lake Ranch operates in the remote northern portion of Water District 130 and is isolated from any other water users. The ranch is also isolated from the Snake River Plain by extensive lava flows that are part of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve.

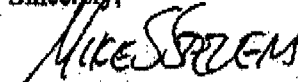
Lava Lake's water use is limited to groundwater and surface diversions used to water alfalfa and oats crops. The water use occurs in a drainage catchment with extensive groundwater recharge to the catchment's surface water terminal point at Lava Lake itself. From there, surface and groundwater flow into the immediately adjacent raw lava. Our hydrologic connection to the main portion of Water District 130 has likely never been fully documented.

Given Lava Lake's very modest diversions, the ranch's physical and possibly hydrologic isolation from the main portion of Water District 130, and our utter dependence on our diversions to maintain our farming and ranching operation, I urge you to consider excluding the operation from your order of February 25, 2004.

Dreher and Yenter  
IDWR Order Dated February 25, 2004  
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Please contact mc at 788-1710 when you have had a chance to review this request.

Sincerely,



Michael S. Stevens  
Chief Operating Officer